Fraxinus pennsylvanica - Ulmus americana / Symphoricarpos occidentalis Forest

COMMON NAME	Green Ash - American Elm / Wolfberry Forest
SYNONYM	Ash - Elm / Wolfberry Forest
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Forest (I)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Deciduous forest (I.B)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (I.B.2.N)
FORMATION	Lowland or submontane cold-deciduous forest (I.B.2.N.a)
ALLIANCE	*Fraxinus pennsylvanica - (Ulmus americana)* Forest Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Globally

This community is found in southern Manitoba, North Dakota and South Dakota. Its range within these states and province is not known.

Wind Cave National Park

Mappable stands of green ash/western snowberry vegetation occur in drainages east of the Park. These areas are under private ownership, and were not accessible for survey.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community occurs on upland sites along steep north-facing slopes and, occasionally, along intermittent drainages or near the bases of north-facing slopes of upland sites. Soils are moist to dry and poorly drained. Girard et al. (1989) found this community on silty clay and clay soils.

Wind Cave National Park

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MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Stratum	Species
Tree canopy	*Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Juniperus virginiana, Ulmus americana*
Short shrub	*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*

Wind Cave National Park

Stratum	Species

Information not available.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Globally

Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Ulmus americana, Symphoricarpos occidentalis

Wind Cave National Park

Information not available.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community is a moderately to densely vegetated forest with an open to dense shrub understory. The average height of the tree layer varies from 5 to 8 meters (US Army Corps of Engineers 1979, Girard et al.1989). The tree layer is dominated by *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* and *Ulmus americana.* Widely scattered old *Populus deltoides* may occur. The shrub layer is dominated by *Symphoricarpos occidentalis*. Other shrubs that can be found are *Rosa woodsii, Juniperus scopulorum* (which can also be in the canopy or subcanopy), and *Prunus virginiana. Symphoricarpos occidentalis* tends to increase under grazing pressure and it may be

almost the only shrub where grazing has been intense. Herbaceous species that may be found in this community are *Pascopyrum smithii, Andropogon gerardii, Poa* spp., *Carex* spp. (wide leaf), *Rumex* spp., *Carex filifolia, Anemone cylindrica, Oryzopsis micrantha, Galium* spp., *Anemone canadensis, Taraxacum* spp., *Lappula* spp., *Conyza canadensis,* and *Circium* spp.

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OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G3G5

DATABASE CODE CEGL002082

MAP UNITS
The green ash - American elm/western snowberry community corresponds to map unit 43, green ash - American elm/western snowberry forest, on the Wind Cave vegetation map.

COMMENTS

REFERENCES
Girard, M.M., H. Goetz, and A.J. Bjugstad. 1989. Native woodland habitat types of southwestern North Dakota. Research Paper RM-281. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Fort Collins, CO. 36 p.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1979. A cultural resources reconnaissance of the federal lands on the east bank of Lake Francis Case, South Dakota. U.S. Army Engineer District, Corps of Engineers, Omaha, NE.